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Kurt

From: George Sanchez [gsanchez@rhainc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2002 10:35 AM
To: Kurt
Subject: Re: Comments on the 2030 Regional Energy Infrastructure Study

Dear Kurt,
Here is a list of energy related issues for low-income San Diegans:

1. Continued and projected lack of affordable housing, a high cost of living and a widening of the distribution of income will continue to impact San Diego's poor and elderly most severely. Poor and elderly San Diegans are most injured by the energy crisis. They are the least able to pay utility bills (gas, electricity, water, sewer, telephone) and pay a far higher percentage of annual income on gas and electricity than other customers do.
2. Federal funding for low-income energy efficiency programs has always been minimal. Even though California utilities have operated low-income programs since 1982, all of their efforts combined are not able to address even 2-3% of the estimated eligible population within the state in a given year.
3. Since 1981, SANDAG's regional energy plans have called for continuation and increases in federal and utility funding for regional low-income energy efficiency programs and services.
4. The state program run by the California State Department of Community Services and Development (DCSD) constantly faces funding cuts at the federal level. In 2001, the state legislature passed SBX1 5 which provided DCSD over \$50 million in state general fund resources to increase its weatherization and energy efficiency services, but before the money could be spent, the governor and the legislature rescinded it in an attempt to address the state budget crisis. Low-income energy efficiency programs are typically the last ones funded and the first ones cut when the state and federal programs run into fiscal problems.
5. The utility low-income energy efficiency programs have worked well to serve eligible customers within each utility's service area over the last two decades, but typically limited to serving an income population much lower than that served by the state and federal programs. The CPUC just raised the income eligibility of the utility programs to match that of the DCSD programs last year.
6. Therefore, any comprehensive evaluation and long range planning of the region's energy future must include a detailed examination of the energy related needs of low-income San Diegans.
7. The CPUC plans to conduct a statewide low-income customer needs assessment survey in the next few months. The SDREO should carefully review the results of this study as it develops plans and projects to serve the energy related needs of the San Diego Region over the next decade.
8. I am interested in serving on the SDREO's working group, but cannot fully commit until I understand the time involved to serve on the group and what the priority agenda items will be. Please keep me posted as the working group develops.

Thanks....

George Sanchez
RHA

----- Original Message -----

George,

Thanks for your comments. Is it possible for you to be more specific- what is working with Low Income programs, what is not, and what is needed? We will likely be pursuing a specific working group on future energy efficiency needs, issues, programs, etc. Would you be willing to serve on that working group?

Kurt

[Kurt Kammerer] -----Original Message-----

From: Ashley Watkins [mailto:awa@sdenergy.org]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2002 8:16 AM

To: kkam@sdenergy.org

Subject: FW: Comments on the 2030 Regional Energy Infrastructure Study

-----Original Message-----

From: George Sanchez [mailto:gsanchez@rhainc.com]

Sent: Saturday, October 12, 2002 1:31 PM

To: sdreo@sdenergy.org

Subject: Comments on the 2030 Regional Energy Infrastructure Study

Richard Heath and Associates , Inc. (RHA) has been providing comprehensive energy efficiency services to various low and limited income San Diego households over the last 23 years. RHA wishes to make the following comments to the SDREO 2030 Regional Energy Infrastructure Study:

RHA feels that a long term energy plan for the San Diego region must include continued and expanded comprehensive energy efficiency services for the region's poor, near poor and elderly households. These households are the most at risk to increased energy costs, and vulnerable to energy related hardships that could impact health, safety, comfort and thier ability to control energy usage.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you for RHA's opportunity to comment on this important study to the San Diego Region.

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